

Supervision Requirements for Psychologists and Limited License Psychologists

Supervision of work activities is an essential component of the State's licensing requirements for psychologists and limited license psychologists. The Board of Psychology is concerned that some psychologists who provide supervision are uncertain about their supervisory responsibilities. For supervisory activities to provide an educational experience, it is recommended that supervisors have expertise in the areas of psychological practice that they are supervising. The following is an overview of supervisory requirements, as prescribed in the Public Health Code and the Administrative Rules.

Section 16109 of the Code, defines "supervision" as a licensed health professional overseeing or participating in the work of another individual in circumstances where at least all of the following conditions exist:

- **The continuous availability of direct communication in person or by radio, telephone, or telecommunication between the supervised individual and a licensed health professional.**
- **The availability of a licensed health professional on a regularly scheduled basis to review the practice of the supervised individual, to provide consultation to the supervised individual, to review records, and to further educate the supervised individual in the performance of the individual's functions.**
- **The provision by the licensed supervising health professional of predetermined procedures.**

Licensed psychologists: Under section 18223(1) of the Code, an individual granted a psychologist license must have at least two years of postdoctoral experience in the practice of psychology. Section 18212 specifies that a person cannot engage in postdoctoral training without obtaining a full or limited license to practice, and requires an individual who has limited license to be supervised by a licensed psychologist. The practice and training must be confined to a hospital, clinic, institution, or other arrangement approved by the Board for the training. Administrative Rule 338.2510(2) also requires that the supervision for postdoctoral training be on a regular weekly, face-to-face basis, and include a review of an individual's work functions and records. In cases of extreme hardship, the Board may approve an alternative supervisory arrangement before the arrangement is implemented.

Limited licensed psychologists: Section 18223(2) of the Code requires an applicant for a limited license to have a master's degree in psychology and have training and experience appropriate to the practice of psychology. In addition, an applicant must have acquired one year of supervised postgraduate experience in an organized health care setting or other arrangement, as established by the Board. The Code requires an individual to be supervised by a psychologist who has a license other than a limited license. If such a psychologist is not available, an applicant may be supervised by a psychologist who has at least a master's degree in psychology and at least three years of experience in the practice of psychology, or by any other individual approved by the Board. R 338.2507 requires an applicant to have participated in a practicum that was supervised by a licensed psychologist. The rule also requires an applicant to have one year of post-master's experience in the practice of psychology that is supervised by a licensed psychologist. Once a limited license is issued, the Code requires a licensee to be supervised by a licensed psychologist. Consult the Code and rules for more details on the requirements.